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December 21, 2005

BY HAND and ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
One South Station, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02110

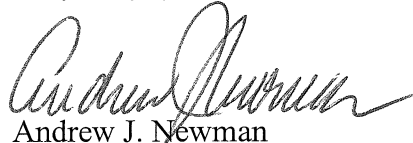
Re: Western Massachusetts Electric Company - D.T.E. 05-91

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Enclosed for filing please find Supplemental Comments of the Western Massachusetts Industrial Customers Group in the above-referenced matter..

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Andrew J. Newman

AJN/lms

Enclosures

cc: dte.efiling  
John J. Geary, Esq., Hearing Officer (4 copies)  
Stephen Klionsky, Esq.  
Joseph Rogers, Esq.  
Alexander Cochis, Esq.  
Robert Sydney, Esq.  
Mr. Sean Hanley  
Mr. Paul Osborne

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

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)  
Compliance filing of Western Massachusetts)  
Electric Company, pursuant to Western )  
Massachusetts Electric Company, )  
D.T.E. 04-106 (2004), and transmission )  
reconciliation factor filing, for effect )  
January 1, 2006 )

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D.T.E. 05-91

**WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS GROUP  
SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS**

The Western Massachusetts Customers Group (“WMICG”) submits these additional comments in response to the Notice of Filing and Request for Comments dated December 6, 2005 in the above-referenced docket. WMICG submitted Initial Comments on December 14, 2005 prior to receipt of the responses filed by Western Massachusetts Electric Company (“WMECo”) to Information Requests of the Department Staff. The Settlement Agreement in D.T.E. 04-106 (2004) to increase distribution rates by \$6 million on January 1, 2005 and an additional \$3 million on January 1, 2006 was approved on the express condition in Article I of the Settlement Agreement that: “For 2005 and 2006, the lower transition charge in combination with distribution rates and transmission rates will be designed to result in a rate decrease for WMECO customers.”

On December 1, 2005, WMECo submitted a filing allegedly in compliance with the Settlement with new distribution, rates and transition and transmission charges to become

effective on January 1, 2006. WMECo in its filing claims that the exogenous exception to the guaranteed rate stability for the two year settlement is applicable for two types of transmission costs--Special Constraint Resource ("SCR") charges and Reliability Must Run ("RMR") charges because it started incurring charges from the Independent System Operator-New England (ISO-NE") for SCR charges in June 2005 and for RMR charges in August 2005. WMECo claims that it should be allowed to increase its rates by an exogenous cost factor of \$0.00543 per kWh as set forth in Attachment 8. WMICG in its Initial Comments explained that the claimed increases in transmission costs were not exogenous costs.

On December 15, 2005 WMECO filed responses to the First Set of Department Information Requests. For some reason the filing was not received by counsel to WMICG until December 21, 2005. Based on a review of the responses, WMICG submits these additional comments.

DTE 1-1 requested WMECO to demonstrate how the rate filing of December 1, 2005 results in rates that are lower than the rates in effect prior to the Department's approval of the Settlement in D.T.E. 04-106. WMECo responded with a copy of Exhibit B to its filing submitted in D.T.E. 04-106. As the rates contained in Exhibit B are not the rates submitted on December 1, 2005 that portion of the response is meaningless. Next, WMECo provides Attachment 4 dated December 15, 2005 which compares rates in 2004 with proposed rates for January 1, 2006. The proposed rates for January 1, 2006 are not the rates filed on December 1, 2005 but a revised set of rates with an average reduction in the transmission adjustment factor of \$0.00543 per kWh.

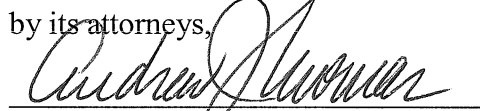
WMECo apparently now proposes to defer with interest the reduced transmission costs to a period after the Settlement term and then charge customers. While WMICG agrees that the

rates should be reduced by \$0.00543 per kWh, the reduction should be in the distribution rates and not in the transmission adjustment charge. The Settlement Agreement was never approved with the intent to create a mechanism that WMECo would be given a guaranteed increase in distribution rates and allowed to create unlimited transmission or transition cost deferrals to achieve compliance. This would be a sham and not in the public interest.

WMICG requests that the Department order WMECO to remove from its distribution rates an amount equal to the claimed "exogenous factor" of \$0.00543 per kWh to comply with the intent of the Settlement Agreement approved by the Department in D.T.E. 04-106.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS GROUP  
by its attorneys,

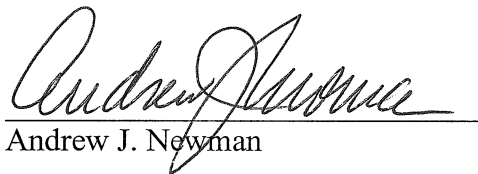
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Newman", is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew J. Newman  
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50 Rowes Wharf  
Boston, MA 02110  
617 – 330-7031

Date: December 21, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Andrew J. Newman, hereby certify that a copy of the Comments of the Western Massachusetts Industrial Customers Group was served by Hand and by e-mail to Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02110, four copies to John J. Geary, Hearing Officer, with copies to the service list in D.T.E. 04-106 in accordance with the Notice of Filing and Request for Comments.

  
Andrew J. Newman

Date: December 21, 2005